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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of Ballard C. Bare	Confirmation No.: 7323
Serial No. 09/228,087	Examiner: Harper, Kevin C.
Filing Date: January 11, 1999	
Title: BROADCAST TREE DETERMINATION IN LOAD BALANCING SWITCH PROTOCOLS	Art Unit: 2666  Attorney Docket No.: 10980015-1

Mail Stop RCE  
Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAR 05 2004

Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

(Amendment E)

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.